

# THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT

## THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS

(Section of the Library Association)



EDITED BY T. E. CALLANDER  
WOOD GREEN PUBLIC LIBRARY, N.22

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## Editorial and Announcements

THE next meeting of the Association will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 18th February, at the Paddington Junior Library, Porchester Road, W.2, when Miss D. I. Ovell, of the Bethnal Green Children's Library, will speak on "Children's Libraries."

The Porchester Road Library may be reached by the following routes :

Bus 36, which passes the door.

Buses 18, 218, 518, to Royal Oak Station.

Buses 7, 15, 27 to Royal Oak, Westbourne Grove.

Metropolitan Railway to Royal Oak or Bayswater.

Central London Railway to Queen's Road.

The Paddington Junior Libraries have recently been reorganized, and the Porchester Road Library should prove extremely interesting to those who study modern developments in juvenile libraries.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 25th February, at 6.30 p.m., at the National Library for the Blind.

An advance notice is given that there will be another Dance held in connexion with this Association on Wednesday, 4th March, at the Samson Clark Hall, Mortimer Street, W.1. Members are asked to support this to the best of their ability, so that there may be an equal amount of enjoyment as at the last Dance and no financial loss. Tickets 4s., to be had from Miss Exley, St. Marylebone Public Library, Gloucester Place, W.1, and other members of the Council.

If we may presume to offer advice to so great a man as Mr. Arnold Bennett, we suggest to him that there is much truth in the saying that a cobbler should stick to his last. It is his useful and pleasant custom to write an article each Thursday for the *Evening Standard*. Generally he writes of books and authors to our edification and pleasure. This is as it should be, and we are duly grateful to Mr. Bennett, but we cannot let his article of the 1st January pass without comment. It concerns the proper use of a private library, and offers much useful advice to bookmen.

Mr. Bennett has his own library, and is therefore as well qualified to write of its use as any of us who merely look after other people's libraries. His remarks on cataloguing a library are, however, very annoying. His instructions to intending cataloguers occupy three lines: "Index cards can be bought for half nothing. Instructions for cataloguing can be bought for very little." The complete art of cataloguing is thus written on the back of a postage stamp, and there is still room for the Lord's Prayer, which in this case would not be superfluous.

To address such words to readers, some of whom have spent many months studying the art of cataloguing, is an insult in the grand manner. We would remind Mr. Bennett that ink and paper may be purchased at a reasonable price, and that there are several manuals for the aspiring novelist whose cost is not excessive. This does not imply that, by taking thought and expending seven and sixpence, the least of us can produce an *Imperial Palace*.

From all reports that we have received, it seems that 1930 was a bumper year for public libraries. Issues have increased at a rate that has never before been excelled or even equalled. It may or may not be significant that, during the same period, unemployment has also increased to an unheard-of figure. If there is any connexion between the two increases, then librarians have had a great opportunity to prove their worth. If those who have no work are turning to the public libraries, it should be the aim of the libraries to open to them new fields, to equip them in new trades, and to enable them to replace their unwanted skill with a technology for which there is a demand on the labour market. If this is being done, then public libraries are fulfilling their true function. If it is not, if unemployed men get nothing from their libraries but a novel to beguile the time while they wait outside the labour exchange, then we can only console ourselves with the thought that we have a precedent for our work in the *panis et circenses* of decadent Rome.

The December meeting of the Association was held at the East Ham Central Library. Members were entertained to tea by Mr. W. D. Stone, and his staff, and were given an opportunity of inspecting the reorganized building.

After tea the meeting adjourned to the Lecture Hall, where, under the chairmanship of Mr. Gurner P. Jones, B.A., Vice-President of the Association, a debate on Specialization was opened by Mr. W. J. Bishop, of the Royal College of Physicians Library (Pro), and Mr. F. Seymour Smith, of the Hornsey Public Libraries (Con). The opening speeches provoked that rare phenomenon at an A.A.L. meeting, a really animated discussion, in which a large number of those present took part. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Librarian and Staff for their hospitality.

A report of the debate will be found in this issue.

The plans of the projected Central Library at Dagenham, Essex, deserve careful attention from all who are studying library planning with a view to the L.A. examinations. They contain, as might be expected, several interesting departures from normal and stereotyped practice. In the lending department, wall shelving has not been used, and though from the

plan it would seem that this has resulted in a rather cramped arrangement of the radiating stacks, the wall light that has thus been obtained has made possible a very comely wing to the library. On reflection, there seems no adequate reason why the normal form of a lending library should be a squat excrescence from the main building. This conventional form may have its advantages, but it is certainly wasteful and seldom pleasant to look upon. The lending department counter has been planned as a "clearing room," which is exterior to the main room. The newsroom is comparatively small, and apparently it is not intended to provide daily newspapers, but to display only periodical literature. It will be interesting to learn whether the inhabitants of Dagenham will take the hint. The reference library combines radiating stacks with alcove tables. A feature of the juvenile department, which is, we believe, entirely new to library planning, is the story circle. This, with its arrangement of seats in a semi-circle around a central table, should be a most valuable adjunct to the work of the library. Mr. O'Leary is to be congratulated upon his planning of a library which promises to be both useful and beautiful.



## "And They Talked About Specialization"

MY journey home was a long and dreary one. The "District" is distressful at that end of London, and little wonder it was when I fell asleep in the corner of the carriage. Just as I reached the first stage of somnolence I thought I saw in the distance the genial figure of the Vice-President. "On my right," he was saying, "is Battling Bishop, the Medical Wonder; on my left, Seymour Smith, the Hornsey Classic" (not in translation). "These two," he went on, "will debate on *Specialization*, the former being Pro, and the latter Con."

And then an extraordinary thing happened: my dream took me through all the stages of our enjoyable and quite useless debate, but it bore no resemblance to the actual sequence of events. At the meeting itself I am sure I sat quite silent while I heard Mr. Bishop deliver his skilful onslaught on behalf of Specialization: all that could be heard, in fact, was the scratching of a couple of fountain pens with which a member of the audience and I made notes, which afterwards proved to be very witty and to the point, but were unfortunately quite unreadable and had to be taken on trust. I am sure of this I say, yet in my dream no sooner had Mr. Bishop made a statement

than I jumped to my feet and put my own spoke in. Naturally Mr. Bishop retorted; and so did I; and that in fact is how the debate went on. The Editor has commanded me to give you an account of the meeting, omitting no salient points; all I can do, therefore, is to tell you what occurred in the only way I can remember it:

PRO.—Specialization is no new thing; it has indeed been going on from the beginning of time.

CON. But surely specialization is a legacy of the war.

PRO. It certainly has become very prominent since 1918. But only in that sense which implies restriction to one special branch of research.

CON. Precisely. And if you will permit me, I propose that before we proceed to differ, we'll agree to agree on one point at least.

PRO. You mean we should first of all define what we mean by the term, in order that we may make clear both to ourselves and our audience what exactly it is that we are talking about.

CON. Just so. Now will you agree, then, that we had all "shunned" so much on the parade ground that those in authority came to the conclusion that the best way to set the world on its feet again was to revive or invent a lot of words with that authoritative and disciplinary ultimate syllable, and then to proceed to apply the terms freely to all our modern methods of training and to our industrial life?

PRO. I'm not an ardent behaviourist, but when you come to think of it, there *were* rather a lot of such words: rationalization, reconstruction, to-night's special hero, specialization, ratification. . . .

CON. Exactly. The less said about the last the better. But it seems to me that this tendency was merely the journalist's method of wrapping up in a single word the prevailing ideas of the time, in order that he might deliver the latest thing out, neatly tied and labelled, on the very doors of suburbia.

PRO. I agree. But get on with your definition.

CON. In the sense that we are discussing specialization to-night, then, I will postulate that the term means selection involving the rejection and absolute exclusion of all branches of study, research and training except one.

PRO. Hardly that. It is ultimately a question of selection, of course, but a specialist may have a general, and very often a very wide, knowledge of many other subjects additional to his special branch.

CON. He *may* have, but how often does he. Is not training and work becoming so intensive that the specialist finds himself absolutely unable to stir outside his own little sphere?

PRO. Sometimes. But therein lies his special value to the world.

CON. To the industrial and commercial world, perhaps; but not to the library world.

PRO. Let's leave the professional press out of it.

CON. You misunderstood me. I spoke in lower case and not in capitals.

PRO. In *that* case, then, I'm sorry I interrupted. Carry on.

CON. I was saying: I agree that, in the commercial and the industrial world, the expert and the highly trained specialist is fast becoming not only a nuisance and a menace, but a very necessary nuisance. The machine is forcing those of us who have to look after it to be as automatically efficient as itself. But although in the library world we may occasionally have to be industrious, we need not be industrial.

PRO. Then we are agreed that a certain measure of specialization is necessary, and that in effect, specialization is no new thing. Good. Let us get on then. I maintain that Herbert Spencer was perfectly right when he said specialization was merely another name for progress or evolution. In other words, the process of evolution from the simple to the complex is a process of adaptation of form to function, that is, of ever-increasing specialization. Every living thing is specialized. Is not the human brain a perfect example: each function, vision, hearing, speech, smell, etc., being controlled by one special part of the brain?

ONE OF THE AUDIENCE. Yes, but all those diversified functions are under the central control of one person.

CON. Thus proving that Nature never meant man to be a specialist. If she did, one of us would do the seeing, another the hearing and another the speaking.

PRO. Exactly what does happen, in practice. Beethoven was a musical specialist and spoke for all of us: some of us hear him, some do not. I need not enlarge.

CON. You would have us develop like the termites then. The soldiers fight, but cannot feed—they have to be fed; the eaters eat, but cannot fight—they have to be fought for; the breeders breed, but can do nothing else, and are dependent for their lives on the two other sections of their little Soviet. Even Nature can be unnatural. Do not let us be frightened of Nature: reproving may lead to improving.

PRO. But even in fifth-century Egypt, physicians were specialists. Herodotus tells us that "some are for the eyes, others for the head, others for the teeth, others for internal disorders."

CON. Just so. I don't deny the Greeks knew quite a lot about specialists. What has Humbert Wolfe culled so felicitously for us from the great Anthology:

"Dead!" cried the surgeon

Laying down the knife:

"Ah well, I've saved him from a cripple's life."

ONE OF THE AUDIENCE. Yes, but they had to have specialists round the King during his last illness.

PRO. Well, as a matter of fact, although there *were* specialists, of course, His Majesty's principal physicians were not specialists.

CON. Which fortunate fact, I suppose, explains why His Majesty is still alive and well.

PRO. Scarcely. Yet is not the question that really concerns us, the *degree* of specialization we think desirable in modern life and in our own profession? For you must remember you agreed that the expert was necessary to some extent, and historically, always has been.

CON. That, I suppose, is true enough. Cæsar was a specialist, and so too was Henry VIII.

PRO. The latter, I presume, in marriage and morals.

CON. Obviously in inverse proportion.

PRO. I take it you particularly dislike the person who limits his sphere of activities in a superlative degree. In what way do you consider him to be inferior to the non-specialist?

CON. I would liken the person to whom you refer to one who has not only obtained a room of his own, but who absolutely declines to visit any other room, either in his own house or in anybody else's. Nay more, in the room of his choice such a specialist will even decline to become acquainted with all four walls, with all the windows which a thoughtful builder may have provided for him. He will select only one window, and will narrow his attention down to the study and contemplation of life as it appears from his thus self-limited vantage-point. It matters not to him if there are finer and more pleasant rooms in the house; nor if there are bigger and better windows in his own room. He will say he has not the time to look at anything save through his own window. Not for him the winding passage on the top-floor, nor the glowing allurements of the wine-cellar. The rigidity (and immobility) of the specialist is the price he pays (cheerfully enough) for his intensive studies. The neglected views from the other windows may be magnificent: he would call them mere distractions; the unvisited rooms might warm his soul with beauty and delight: he would dub them unnecessary nuisances. In short, a knowledge of the whole house he lives in might deepen his comprehension and enlarge his perception, making much that appears abstruse to him simpler, and even simple; yet he would prefer to preserve the immemorial attitude of the specialist—an attitude of exclusive detachment.

PRO. I follow: the I-know-my-business-you-get-on-with-your-own attitude. But he really does know his business. That is precisely why we must have him.

CON. Then keep him in his place. Do not worship him. Consider many of the books by accredited experts on psychology. Do they not make one smile at the ponderous way in which age-old platitudes concerning human nature are tricked out as the results of modern research?

PRO. Let us keep to the point by considering the real expert and not the

sham. I am not damning my own case by admitting that there are poor specialists. Of course there are, but a good specialist will not nullify his special knowledge by neglecting other branches of life so absolutely that he is negligible taken as a whole.

CON. I maintain that modern specialization is tending to accomplish this very state of affairs.

PRO. The lawyer is a specialist; but he has to have a very wide knowledge of general subjects and of human nature in general.

CON. Has to! Should have, perhaps. How often does his general knowledge inspire anything but derision! Still, there's money in the lawyer's madness. Let that pass.

ONE OF THE AUDIENCE. And if you call that kind of specialization madness, then there's money in the library specialist's madness. For is it not just because of special knowledge that we shall eventually obtain the position in modern life due to us, and with the position, the money.

CON. Yes, we may eventually obtain that exaggerated veneration accorded to the modern expert by the innocent public which humbly and so often wrongly thinks it knows nothing about such abstruse subjects as the law, the constitution, medicine, librarianship, etc. If that state of affairs ever arrives—and I agree it looks from America's example that well it might—I do not think we shall have improved ourselves intrinsically, but as we undoubtedly shall financially, I shall then be very willing to take Mr. Bishop's side of the platform.

PRO. You must admit, however, that special training is needed for assistants in special libraries.

CON. Granted.

PRO. Good. For of course both the formation and the administration of a special library can only be done efficiently by librarians who are specialists in one branch. I imagine, then, that our next debatable topic will be the degree of specialization needed in the general public library. That is, the strict division of labour in more or less water-tight compartments—cataloguing, classification, reference work, etc. But let me give you a few figures about special libraries first. A few figures won't do you any harm, for up to the present your argument has been rather wordy.

CON. I follow. You consider the work of the word is to wangle. Let me remind you that Dagenham pointed out to you last month that even the fact of the figure may still be fictional. In other words, some statistics must be seen to be believed.

PRO. You may trust these figures, at any rate. Mr. Ridley has defined the special library as a "collection of information covering a specific field, which may be administered by a special staff and for the service of a limited clientele." The most striking thing about these libraries is their number and variety. Of 660 libraries described by Mr. Rye in his *Guide*, more than 360 are classed as special libraries, devoted to 85 departments of knowledge.



Mr. Rye has calculated that in London alone there were in 1927 no fewer than 1,200 special collections of books. In America in 1921 there were 1,300 special libraries and 600 separate industrial concerns running their own libraries, in most cases in charge of a trained librarian. "As long as knowledge continues to increase," said Sir Arthur Keith in a recent address, "and the methods employed become more elaborate, division of labour—specialization—must also increase." Perhaps long ago it was possible for a scholar to know nearly all that was known; but to-day that is impossible. In every department of knowledge innumerable workers are engaged in research and authorship. Record is piled upon record; the wood cannot be seen for the trees. Ignorance of what has already been done in a particular field leads to the endless repetition of experiment and research and to the endless duplication of record. The vast extent of scientific literature may be gauged from the fact that the *World List of Scientific Periodicals published in the Years 1900-21* (1925) contains over 24,000 entries. In medicine alone 2,000 periodicals are now published. This great store of knowledge, the accumulated record of man's experience and research, cannot be neglected. No intellectual worker—not even a Newton or an Einstein—can afford to ignore the work of others. He must keep himself abreast with the ever-growing literature of his subject. That is why specialism is so strongly entrenched to-day.

CON. At the same time, to confine our attention to the question of specialization of training for librarianship, I must interrupt your argument by stating that in my opinion the librarian who has charge of a public library makes a better public official if his training has been general.

PRO. You will agree, however, that general libraries cannot provide the number of periodicals and books required by the reader who is specializing in one subject. The Library of the Royal Society of Medicine, for instance, takes regularly 693 current periodicals, that of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine 629. The number of text-books and monographs, most of which are very costly, is on the same scale; whilst reports, pamphlets, and reprints by the thousand swell the flood of printed matter with which the librarian has to deal. You must agree, therefore, that the literature of a special subject can only be provided with any degree of adequacy by a library devoted to that subject.

CON. It would be idle and foolish of me to deny it. That is not by any means a debatable point. What is debatable, however, is whether the librarian of a special library should be a librarian first and a technical specialist second, or the other way round. When I attended the last ASLIB conference, the question was discussed at length. I had no doubt in my mind, after listening to the arguments put forward, that a person in charge of a library, no matter what kind of library it may be, must first of all be a librarian. Does not the person who has been properly trained in librarianship equip himself by that very training to be able to find his way about

books, whatever their subject-matter. Some of the heads of business and technical houses tried to prove that one in charge of a scientific library must first of all be a scientist, at least so far as a degree in that faculty could take him. They said that the terminology alone of a technical subject would be beyond the general librarian.

PRO. I am inclined to agree with them.

CON. Not, I think, if you had heard the head of a large city public library in the Midlands offer to eat his hat if his library staff were unable to deal with technical literature and enquiries with more efficiency than a scientifically trained person without a knowledge of librarianship.

PRO. I will certainly agree that a knowledge of librarianship is essential. But I do think that a special library can only be run efficiently by a staff who, in addition to a sound general training in librarianship, have also a special knowledge of the literature of the subject with which the library is concerned. The Librarian is of course supposed to be a walking encyclopædia. You know the verses given by A. R. Spofford in his *Book for all Readers* :

He must master the cosmology,  
And know all about psychology,  
And the wonders of biology,  
And be deep in ornithology, etc. etc.

CON. An argument for the all-round man, in fact. I wouldn't ask the poor fellow to ologize himself so much as that, though.

PRO. What, in your opinion, then, is the description of an ideal librarian?

CON. The best type, to my mind, is the kind of person who has received a good, but not too good, education ; who has qualified himself by examination so far as the Library Association or the School of Librarianship require him to (just to show that there's nothing in it, you know) ; who was born with, or who has acquired, good (but not too good) manners ; who has learned what to read and what to skip, and what to leave severely alone (how rare, oh Edgar ! is this last) ; one who can see the humour of things, but at the same time knows how to be serious without being solemn ; one who insists on retiring at sixty-five ; and finally one who really knows what can be done with the modern library, and if he cannot do it himself, makes sure that other people do it for him.

PRO. That is certainly not the description of a specialist, nor indeed of a learned person. Yet do not those who reported on our profession to the Government insist that librarianship is a learned profession ?

CON. They do. But the expression smacks of the academic, and academic training in itself is a kind of specialization, and does, indeed, I think, numb the most vital intelligences if made an end in itself.

PRO. Cataloguing and classification, particularly of scientific and technical literature, is becoming very difficult, though, and certainly calls for special training and experience.

CON. Nature has not liberally endowed some people. Some can catalogue well, and would make indifferent administrators. I agree that we should make use of ourselves to the extent of ascertaining our own limitations. But I still maintain that our training must be general to be good, so far as the public librarian is concerned. If we are going to have library staffs kept to one job all their lives, however, we must certainly see that they do not suffer financially. The position at present is that all of us, if we are to earn anything over £400 a year, and also wish to obtain a certain amount of prestige in our profession, must strive to become chief librarians, irrespective of our natural limitations. A woman may be a good children's librarian, but at present she seldom receives either the salary or the prestige to make her contented with her lot. Therefore the wise librarian will see that only those of his staff who are specialists by nature are kept on special work, year in, year out. He will not allow an assistant of general ability to immerse himself in accounts, or cataloguing, or reference library work, or in branch library work. He will see that such of his staff who are worth it are trained in all the splendid variety of duties which librarianship offers, so that when they become chief librarians themselves they will at least know their work from A to S, which stands for Salary. Some few may know it from A to Z: to these may the lamentably few plums of our profession fall.

PRO. But consider the position of the staff of a very large public library. The mere bulk of the work to be accomplished makes it essential for the person in control to make his staff specialize in one department.

CON. That is so. And very bad for the staff it is. To make a person of general ability spend all his or her life cataloguing or classifying, is to my mind a very undesirable thing. Duties should be interchanged as much as possible, even at the risk of a little dislocation in the service. For the whole point of my argument is that specialization in the public library does not train an assistant comprehensively enough to make him a good chief librarian. And yet, as I said before, and you agreed with me, at the present time we must all strive to become chiefs if we are to earn a salary above six or seven pounds a week.

PRO. Do not forget, however, that an assistant who is made to keep his nose to one task, should also study his profession generally, and may in fact qualify by examination for the more general positions. The L.A. syllabus is not a specialized one, although the Association has long been aware of the advantages to be gained by specialization. In the Interim Report on the Provision of Technical and Commercial Libraries (July 1917) the Council "strongly recommended library assistants to supplement their general training in librarianship with special training in a well-defined section of bibliography."

CON. But to this I would say that on the syllabus should be printed "Examinations are not enough." Librarianship as a profession has all the variety of life itself, and to limit ourselves deliberately to one section of it is

surely a mistake. Examinations test only a certain kind of knowledge: the kind that is usually acquired by memorizing. One may be asked sometimes to state what one thinks, but one soon realizes it is safer in the examination room to state what someone else thinks. Examinations seldom test the ability of a person to *apply* even his textbook knowledge. In proof of this, as you know, it is possible for a person still in his teens to have satisfied the examiners in all six sections of the syllabus. Yet how few people, even after many years of experience, are really first-rate librarians.

PRO. Granted. But I know you will agree that an assistant who has special knowledge of one subject is a great asset to a library. That subject may be foreign languages, or music, or literary history, for it is obvious that library work, being as you stated so varied, does offer scope for activity in some of these special branches of knowledge. Special knowledge will not only benefit readers, but will also result in increased confidence on the part of the librarian. The preparation of a thesis for the Honours Diploma will give an assistant special knowledge of one subject and this all helps in the backbone of the public library service—book-selection.

CON. I agree entirely. But I think we must still keep our training and experience as general as possible, both for financial reasons and in the interests of the general efficiency of our public libraries so far as policy and administration are concerned. Give your special assistants a status worthy of their ability and pay them well, and then it may be desirable to alter our system of training. I stick to the belief, however, that the control of a public library is best in the hands of a non-specialist.

PRO. You must see, though, that it may be necessary to produce your specialists first, and then ask for their knowledge to be worthily remunerated. The commercial world has specialized itself. Why? Obviously because it is a paying proposition. I don't suggest you should run libraries like a Woolworth's store, but I can see that I have convinced you there is a great need for intelligent specialization in such a complex institution as a library and in such a varied profession. At the same time, I will agree that this specialization must not be allowed to make the control of our libraries narrow; we must correlate all the departments of our libraries and must see that those assistants who are of general ability shall gain and not suffer by this departmentalism. Along with specialization must go an ever-increasing degree of co-ordination and unification. It follows, therefore, that the ideal chief must be an all-round specialist.

CON. A Specialist in Specialization, in fact. No wonder good librarians are rare. However, the public library serves the general reader.

PRO. And the study of the general reader is the greatest specialization of all. But what has happened to the audience?

CON. They left some time ago. Didn't you notice? Let us join them. There's still time. . . .

## About Music

By L. MONTAGUE HARROD  
(Croydon Public Libraries)

FOR some years now, music has been considered to be an essential part of a library's book stock, and we find quite representative collections in most libraries. Assistants are often asked for or about music, and if they are not "musical" they may feel a little dubious about giving any definite help. Now, it is not at all necessary for anyone to have had a musical training in order to understand music sufficiently to meet the ordinary needs of the average music borrower. Most borrowers of music will know about the music—its form, for what instruments, and when it was written, etc., but you and I ought to know the elementary and obvious differences to a listener between a symphony, an oratorio and a fugue. We shall then know what a person wants when he asks for Beethoven's *Eroica Symphony*, Opus 55, and in what respects it differs from his *Emperor Concerto*, Opus 73, although they are both in the same key (E flat major). It is assumed that no one would do such a thing as to offer a person Mendelssohn's *Symphony (No. 3) in A Minor* when he asked for the *Symphony (No. 4) in A Major*: there is sufficient indication in the title that they are not the same piece.

It is the purpose of this article to give a little help in this matter. The constructional differences between the various forms, the ways a theme reappears in a particular piece, or the number of keys through which a piece passes, are of no practical use to the assistant among the shelves. These things are therefore not dealt with. What *is* dealt with has been found by experience to be the minimum amount of common musical knowledge which a library assistant should possess. In cases of doubt and extremity and when no musical colleague is near, Grove's *Dictionary* and Percy Scholes's books may be found useful. So also may the lives of individual musicians, as these often contain lists of compositions in chronological order. A good general maxim is to leave no stone unturned until a borrower has obtained what he wants. It may interest those who have had no musical training, but who are interested in music, to know that their general musical knowledge can be greatly extended by reading *Music and Youth* month by month.

A SYMPHONY is the most satisfying in form and complete piece of music which is written for the orchestra. Beethoven wrote nine symphonies, one of which (the ninth) is called a choral symphony, because a choir takes part in it. A symphony is written in three or four movements (or separate pieces), each of which is related to the others, in both key and melody. Just above the first line of each movement is printed—usually in italics—the speed at which it is to be taken, such as: *andante* (at a moderate pace); *allegro* (quick); *adagio* (leisurely). The middle movement of a symphony or sonata

is usually slow and the others quicker. But this is not always so; for instance, Tschaikevsky's *Pathetic Symphony* (No. 6) has an "adagio" final movement. Sometimes the term which indicates the time at which a piece is to be taken is also the name of a piece. "Scherzo" is an example. The purpose of a term can be decided by its position. If it is printed boldly in the centre of the page it is the title, and if placed just above the first line as already described, it is the speed indication. Although originally written for and performed by an orchestra, symphonies—like operas and overtures—are often transcribed for the piano or organ. These are (or should be) classified according to the instrument for which they are transcribed, as it is only to players of this instrument that the music is of any use.

A SONATA is written in the same form as the symphony, but for a solo instrument—usually violin or piano. Sonatas written for violin, flute or any other non-keyboard instrument usually have a piano accompaniment. Sonatas are not transcribed. Single movements of sonatas are often played alone, especially on the organ.

THE CONCERTO also consists of three movements, and is written for a solo instrument—again usually violin or piano—with orchestral accompaniment. A CONCERTINO or CONCERTSTÜCK is a small concerto.

OVERTURES are popular orchestral pieces in three or four movements, which often take the place of the symphony in concert programmes. They are often written to form an introduction to an opera or play. They are also written as "programme" music, that is, music intended to convey to the listener some realization of the composer's inspiration. Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture* is an example of the latter, while his *Midsummer Night's Dream* is an example of the former.

CHAMBER MUSIC is music written for and played by small combinations of instruments and such works are named TRIOS, QUARTETS, etc., according to the number of instruments taking part. When these combinations contain a piano, the name of the combination is preceded by the word "piano"; for example, a piano quintet would be a piece of music written for piano, 1st and 2nd violins, viola and 'cello. The music for each player must be printed separately so that it can be put on his music stand. In libraries, the thickest part is bound into boards, and the thinner parts kept in a pocket on the inside of the back board.

This concludes the list of forms for combinations of instruments.

The other class of music which may be considered at some length is vocal music for more than one voice. This can be divided into sacred and secular, plus a few forms belonging to both divisions. To take the sacred first, some of the terms such as PSALM, HYMN and ANTHEM need no explanation.

The two greatest subdivisions of sacred music are the MASS and the ORATORIO.

The MASS is the music composed to be sung by the choir at the Church

celebration of the same name. A Mass consists of six distinct pieces, called Kyrie Eleison, the Gloria, the Credo, the Sanctus, the Benedictus, and finally the Agnus Dei, with the additional "Dona nobis pacem." Perhaps the three best-known Masses—which incidentally are often sung independently of the actual celebrations—are the *Twelfth Mass* by Mozart, the *D Major Mass* by Beethoven, and the *Mass in B Minor* by Bach. Some of the separate pieces forming these works, for instance, the Kyrie and Gloria from Mozart's *Twelfth*, are often played as orchestral music.

A REQUIEM is a funeral Mass. The best example of this form is also by Mozart: part of it he actually composed on his death-bed. Another well-known requiem is by Verdi.

According to Pauer, almost every composer of any importance has written a Mass. Its six pieces, each with special significance and written to accompany particular actions on the part of the clergy, certainly give opportunities for expression.

The ORATORIO is the other great sacred choral form. The early oratorio dealt entirely with the story of our Saviour's sufferings, but it first developed into the form with which we are familiar—a kind of biblical drama—in the hands of Handel. It consists of a number of recitatives, arias and choruses arranged in order according to the story. The accompaniment for an oratorio should be an orchestra, but failing this, an organ.

PASSION MUSIC originated in the Mysteries and Passion Plays, and as its name suggests, dealt with the sufferings and death of our Saviour. It is similar to an oratorio, though usually much shorter. CHORAL, INTROIT, MOTET, GRADUAL, STABAT-MATER, MISERERE, CANTICUM and MAGNIFICAT are names of pieces written in particular forms and sung at special parts of Church services. These, however, are of minor importance for our purposes, and need no further treatment.

Turning to secular choral music, the greatest example is of course the OPERA. This is a work in which music, speech, acting and sometimes dancing combine to present a story which can be either lyric, comic, romantic, or tragic. It is sung by solo voices and choir with orchestral accompaniment: a spoken play set to music. Except in its subject (and consequently its style of music) it is the same as an oratorio, with the addition of acting. It consists of a number of separate pieces, as the oratorio, but with more variety.

There are certain forms which are common to both sacred and secular music and are always found in them. One is the RECITATIVE, which is the narrative between song parts. Musically it is midway between a spoken declamation and actual singing; a speaking at a high pitch which, although slightly varied in pitch, seldom becomes a melody.

Any tuneful melody which has a definite form is an ARIA, but the term is only applied to melodious vocal solos in oratorios and operas to distinguish them from recitatives. A SONG CYCLE is a collection of songs, the words of which are related in thought to one another.

A CANTATA is a composition comprising arias, recitatives and choruses. There is great similarity in the forms of the cantata, oratorio and opera. Although a cantata is usually shorter than an oratorio, the length of a piece does not indicate whether it is one or the other; for instance, Haydn's cantata, *The Seasons*, is as long as many oratorios. On the other hand, an oratorio may be so short that it might be considered to be a cantata. A cantata may be short or long, for one voice, a quartet, or a chorus; it requires an instrumental accompaniment, and the poetry is in a lyrical style. Whereas in the opera and oratorio a regular dramatic action is played before or related to us, the cantata relates only sentiments brought about by meditation upon great subjects, heroic deeds, scenes of nature, contemplations of divine might, moral subjects, etc. An oratorio is always sacred, a cantata may or may not be.

Various other forms which are to be found in both sacred and secular music are: CAVATINA, ARIOSA, CAVATA and CHORUS. Pieces of music are sometimes composed for violin or piano in the form and style as some of these. They then bear the same name.

FANTASIA, CAPRICE, CAPRICCIO, SCHERZO, SONGS WITHOUT WORDS, ÉTUDE, IDYLL ECLOGUE, RONDO, FUGUE, RHAPSODY, IMPROMPTU and INTERMEZZO are the names of single-movement pieces written in particular forms for solo instruments.

ALLEMANDE, POLONAISE, COURANTE, HORNPIPE, BOURRÉE, GAVOTTE, GIGUE, CHACONNE, SARABANDE, PAVANE, are the names given to dance music. Each name indicates a particular dance, the music of which must always be in the same form. These names are given to the music whether it is written for orchestra or for solo instruments. A SUITE is a number of pieces—usually dances—played one after another, mostly by an orchestra. Handel's and Bach's suites are the most famous. A BALLET is a collection of music (not necessarily dance forms) to accompany dancing.

Now a few remarks on the scores—the visual music.

A FULL SCORE is the copy which contains on one page the music which every instrument is playing at one time. The piano or organ at the bottom, above this the string instruments, then the drums and other effects, then the wood-wind, then the brass, and lastly, the voices. It is the copy which the conductor uses. Needless to say, this type of score is only kept in libraries in the form of MINIATURE SCORES; the type is very small, thus making a book which can easily go into the coat pocket or handbag. It is very useful to a musician when listening to an orchestra or gramophone record to be able to follow the music of all the instruments.

A VOCAL SCORE is half-way between a piano transcription and a full score, and always refers to opera or oratorio music. One stave (or line of music) is given for each voice, always in this order: soprano at the top, contralto underneath, then tenor, then bass; then the full score is compressed into two staves for piano.



A PIANO SCORE consists of the music of the important instruments and/or voices written (transcribed) on two staves to be played as a piano solo. For practice purposes, the orchestral score of a piano concerto is usually written in this way, and is used as an accompaniment while the soloist plays on another piano.

All instrumental solos (except piano) must have an accompaniment (usually piano) printed separately so that the soloist can put his music on the stand away from the piano, unless they are written to be played unaccompanied, as are some of Bach's beautiful violin sonatas.

The music for different instruments or voices in chamber music, orchestras and choruses must also be printed separately for the same reason.

The opus number is the most definite means of referring to a piece of music: it is the number given to a piece in its order of composition. Opus 1 is the first piece, Opus 25 the twenty-fifth piece by a composer. When composers write two pieces in the same form and key, only the opus number will distinguish them.



## To What Red Hell?

By D. RUSSELL LEGGATT

(Camberwell Public Libraries)

SCIENTIFIC classification exercises a disintegrating influence upon a collection of books. Its emphasis upon small distinctions, its preoccupation with subject-matter rather than the thoughts provoked and ideas stimulated by books, tend to separate works which, from dealing with different subjects, merely look at the same problem from different angles. As life becomes more complex and knowledge more specialized, our ideas and outlook are less influenced by the single teacher or the individual book and become more and more a synthetic product. The world in which our great-grandchildren will live will be a world presenting many facets; and in order to glean information about the conditions of life which it was anticipated would obtain a hundred years hence, with a view to discovering the position occupied by Public Libraries in twenty-first-century civilization, I had to gather around me what was, by all the canons of Sayers, a varied assortment of books.

Of the dangers of bureaucracy, and the possible outcome of modern despotic tendencies in public administration, I was warned by the Lord Chief Justice; the political and economic conditions into which the world is moving, unwillingly, perhaps, but none the less inevitably, were outlined for me by an Irish dramatist; although, of course, not specially for me, for I'm not even an ordinary woman. At first glance these prospective conditions look rather attractive. The basic principle is that of equal income for all, and this, if it means *anything*, means that the happy day is about to dawn

when Librarians will receive the same salaries as Town Clerks and Borough Surveyors ; further consideration, however, gives rise to the fear that the salaries of all three Panjandrums will be levelled down to that of the Corporation dustman.

My appetite for information about international relations, peace and war, in this not too distant age was satisfied by the faith of an Oxford Professor of Greek in the abolition of war and the organization of the world for peace in this generation. Forecasts of developments in the arts were provided by a provocative series on "To-day and To-morrow" ; there were several volumes of Wells ; and there was a poem by D. H. Lawrence, published, I believe, posthumously, entitled, "The Triumph of the Machine."

Surrounded by such a collection, an arm-chair before the fire is transformed into a time machine, and we can travel at will through space-time into the future.

There are few more fascinating occupations than the creation of imaginary worlds and the building of Utopias, not the least contributory cause being that in these realms imagination is untrammelled and the prophet will be dust before he can be called to account for the accuracy or otherwise of his prophecy ; and, at worst, foretelling the future is a gratuitous form of error, free in all aspects except the legal, which exception serves but to demonstrate the truth of a well-known aphorism. Scientific knowledge expands bilaterally ; like Janus it looks in two directions : it seeks to solve the mystery of the origin of man and thence to deduce his future. Mr. Wells, himself a versatile if not always a consistent Utopian, established once and for all, in his *Outline of History*, the right of the layman to draw his own conclusions from the data with which the experts provided him ; when learned advocates have argued and discussed points of law *ad lib.*, the verdict is given by twelve good men and true, unlearned in the law ; and the information which I possess of forces working in the world to-day is my warrant for recording a few conjectural impressions of England in the year A.D. 2031.

The first thing that struck me was the general atmosphere of lethargy and idleness. There is an abundance of leisure. So great has been the progress of mechanization and rationalization that all the work that has to be performed can now be done by everyone working a few minutes a day. Everything was perfectly organized and peaceful ; Tennyson had foretold—

"And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law."

The inactivity and stagnation of the age, however, will be better conceived when I tell you that in comparison the Library Association stood out as a paragon of energy and virility.

I could not help noticing the benefits of State-control, which some, no doubt, will prefer to regard as the drawbacks of State interference. The

child is brought into the world in a State nursing-home, is reared in a State crèche, is sent to a State school, in illness is tended by a State doctor in a State hospital. He enters his State-controlled industry, to and from which he travels daily in the State transport service. His food consists of State-manufactured tabloids. He marries a State-chosen wife in a State church, moves into a State-built house, and proceeds to bear a State-controlled number of children who endure a similar monotonous and unenterprising routine, while their parents draw their State pension for a limited number of years, before being humanely dispatched in the State lethal-chamber.

Naturally, the State library service plays an important part in this national life, or rather national death. No longer can the intellectually indolent or the mentally vacuous plead the claims of work as an excuse for not reading. The State, having long since adopted the recommendation of the Committee of 1926, and enforced the adoption of the Library Acts everywhere, has more recently pursued that policy to its logical conclusion, and decreed compulsory universal library attendance. After many years it has come to be realized that attendance at school to the age of fifteen and attendance at libraries thereafter are supplementary influences. A week's absence from the library provokes a visit from the Library Attendance Officer, and a repetition of the offence brings them before the local psychological examination court. There are no petty sessional benches from which senile tradesmen may startle the world with oracular utterances on the depravity of youth or the corrupting influence of the kinema. Crime and unsocial behaviour is no longer punished; it is treated as a disease; and the only occasion upon which people are known to smile is when they think of those ignorant, barbaric days when the maladies of kleptomania and homicidal mania were regarded and treated as the crimes of theft and murder.

Inside the libraries, things have altered. On entering, the borrower finds himself in a sort of telephone-box, in which he undergoes a process of psychoanalysis, and mechanism is automatically set in motion to bring him a book suited to his taste, mental capacity and state of mind. If he is one to whom all things are pure he will obtain a modern book by some advanced twenty-first-century writer; the less chaste must be satisfied by those quaint, old-fashioned Georgians—Huxley, Joyce and Lawrence. Children gasp with incredulity when their elders tell of the dark ages when it was permissible for the reader to choose books for himself, and even possible occasionally to obtain one which he wanted. "Did boys and girls," they ask ironically, "choose the lessons they learnt at school, or decide themselves what they should do with their leisure?" The Librarian and his staff have disappeared; a figure in dungarees, with an oil-can and cotton waste in his hands, is the only attendant in evidence.

Taking a book from the shelves, I opened it curiously, and noted with surprise that the pages were blank. "Of course," I reflected, "librarians

and publishers of a century ago, in providing the public with reading matter to the exclusion of books, so successfully fostered the habit of indiscriminate reading that letters and words have become unnecessary; reading consists of the habit of turning over pages, and of letting the eyes wander left to right, up and down. And why not? After all, literature is nowadays a rationalized industry; novels and plays are mass-produced. When we read on page 71 something like this: 'His strong arms encircled her; she gazed into his eyes; her bosom rose and fell' (I think a law should be passed prohibiting tidal fluctuations in heroines' bosoms), there isn't much reason why we should read page 72 very closely. If a writer describes a scene in the same conventional words which a thousand writers before have used to describe similar scenes, we are justified in assuming that he has no fresh vision, no intense feeling to communicate. The blank page is as adequate and a truer reflection of his mind."

Oh, Librarians! Is it too late? Uniformity triumphs everywhere; individuality is crushed by the machine; the critical faculties of the public are being atrophied. Has not the time come to scrap your former theories of book-selection, and to ask of the literature which seeks admission to your shelves: "Have you something original to give us, some new experience, some fresh point of view, a conception of beauty of your own? If not, away with you." Never mind the accusations of highbrowism which will be levelled against you; never mind your issues—those bugbears of progress. Better be dashed to pieces attempting to fly than to decay wallowing in the mire; better to aim about people's heads than to hit them below the belt.



## News of the World

COUNTY LEITRIM (Ireland).—There is real enthusiasm about libraries in county Leitrim. The members of the County Council found this out when, "in a moment of aberration," as the local paper charitably explains, they adopted the Libraries Acts. The people of the county remembered the awful occurrence at Mayo recently, where a Protestant librarian has been firmly planted by the Free State Government. The faithful of Leitrim are not going to have this sort of thing done to them. No, begob! The blood of their fathers, who marched with the Land League, stirred in their veins and, armed with shillelaghs and headed by brass bands they paraded outside the County Hall playing the *Wearing of the Green*, until, in terror, the County Councillors rescinded their adoption of the Acts.

Why shouldn't this soul-stirring example be followed in England? If the Irish can countermand a library system at the point of a trombone, surely the English can secure libraries by similar means. I should dearly love to see the

Secretary of the Library Association carrying a banner at the head of a library demonstration, supported by Mr. Sayers playing a bombardon.

TEIGNMOUTH.—A branch of the Devonshire County Library is to be established in the Fish Market at Teignmouth. Phew!

#### A BALLADE OF BOOK SELECTION

We buy up Mudie's cast-offs by the score,  
Or we send an order off to Mr. Foyle  
For a "ton of nice clean fiction—as before,"  
And we'll do it till we leave this mortal coil.  
We go on buying tripe with all our might,  
And won't believe our efforts end in waste  
So long as, without fail, on Friday night  
We get our pay for leading public taste.

A bawdy book with us has not a chance  
Of sullying a maiden pure in heart.  
We are trained to spot the ordure at a glance,  
And long research has given us the art  
Of keeping sexy volumes off the shelves.  
We will only lend you volumes that are chaste,  
The others we will keep to read ourselves  
As some reward for leading public taste.

#### ENVOI

Prince, we are only weak and sinful men,  
On Judgment Morn we too shall be abased.  
Plead for us that the lash falls lightly when  
We get our pay for leading public taste.

DAGENHAM.—The dear children at Dagenham are to be provided with wash-basins at the new Central Library. Further, they are to be compelled to use them before touching the books. This sounds very hygienic, but I doubt if it will supersede the traditional cleansing method used by young readers. The new way may appeal to their elders, but I suspect that the old, even though it is hard on the seat of the trousers, will find many adherents.

I trust that it will never be found necessary to suggest that adult borrowers at this library should be provided with basins too, at which they may perform ritual ablution *after* using the books.

HASTINGS.—I learn from a press cutting that the Hastings Museum and Library Sub-Committee recently spent the morning "deliberating upon the latest batch of additions" to the library. This practice of holding an inquisition upon the selections of a librarian before he is permitted to place them upon his shelves is an insult to the profession which calls for some action. There appears to be a general opinion among local authorities that those councillors who can read are a necessary adjunct to the librarian in the

selection of books. Presumably, a librarian is paid an adequate salary for his possession of expert literary knowledge. Why, then, should the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker take it upon themselves to quiz the outcome of his experience?

By the way, is it a result of the researches of these local worthies that *Thy Servant a Dog* is non-fiction at Hastings?

OBSERVER.

## The Divisions Midland Division

THE next meeting of the Division will be held in Birmingham on Wednesday, 11th February. This will be our 21st Birthday Meeting, and the Divisional Committee have arranged a programme which they believe will meet with the approval of all our members. Two of the foremost figures in the profession, Mr. S. A. Pitt, Vice-President of the L.A. and City Librarian of Glasgow, and Mr. E. A. Savage, Honorary Secretary of the L.A., City Librarian of Edinburgh, have promised to address the afternoon meeting. We are looking forward with confidence to hearing two interesting and stimulating addresses. The outline programme is as follows:

3.30 *p.m.* Meeting at the Council Chamber, Birmingham (by kind permission of the Lord Mayor). Addresses by S. A. Pitt, Esq., and E. A. Savage, Esq.

5.30 *p.m.* Tea at Messrs. Kunzle's Café, Union Street, Birmingham.

6.0-10.0 *p.m.* Social Evening. Radio Gramophone recital; Musical items by members; Dancing, etc.

Tickets for Tea and Social (price 2s. 6d.) should be obtained from the Hon. Secretary as early as possible. This will be a joint meeting with the Birmingham and District Branch of the Library Association, and we anticipate having a record attendance. We hope to have with us also some of our colleagues from London and other parts of the country to join us in our coming-of-age celebrations.

JAMES REVIE, *Hon. Secretary.*

The third meeting of the session was held at Coventry on Wednesday, 17th December, 1930, when 37 members, from Birmingham, Coventry, Leicester and Smethwick, were present.

The party assembled at St. Mary's Hall, where Miss M. Dormer Harris, a Coventry historian, gave an interesting address on early Coventry records. Selected documents were displayed for close inspection, and later, by permission of the Town Clerk (Frederick Smith, Esq., B.A.), members visited the City Muniment Room. On leaving St. Mary's Hall the party divided,

some members going to the Cathedral and some to the Gulson (Central) Library. Tea was partaken at the Savoy Café, Broadgate, by the invitation of Alderman J. I. Bates, B.Sc. (Chairman of the Libraries and Museum Committee). In addition to the Chairman, several members of Coventry Libraries and Museum Committee attended tea. It was a pleasure to hear the tribute paid to the Coventry librarians (Messrs. S. A. Pitt, E. A. Savage and C. Nowell) by our host, and equally delightful to find a committee man with such long association and wholehearted interest in the public library movement. After playful witticisms on the due reward awaiting donors of such generous teas in the future life, the members adjourned to the Gulson Library for the evening meeting. Miss M. G. Baker, Chairman of the Division, presided, and Miss D. E. Procter, of the Birmingham Reference Library staff, read a paper on "Library Work in Canada." Miss Procter was, for four and a half years, a member of the Toronto Public Library staff, and during that period made a first-hand study of Canadian Library conditions. The paper contained a résumé of library provision in each Province, with a more detailed account of the work in Ontario. The ensuing discussion was well sustained, and the speaker had a busy time answering members desirous of further information on points of detail.

The meeting concluded with cordial votes of thanks to Mr. C. Nowell and members of the Coventry staff for arranging the meeting, and to Miss D. E. Procter for a highly instructive and interesting paper.

M. J. R.

## New Members

**J**ACK BURKETT (Poplar); Miss M. H. Doubleday (Hampstead); Ann C. Pearson, Margaret L. Williamson (Kirkcaldy); John L. Thornton (University College Library).

*Midland Division.*—Lily Saunders, Jessie Whiteley, A. D. Roberts, F. Underhill, Miss L. Johnson (Birmingham).

*North-Western Division.*—Miss H. Frost (Stalybridge).

*Transfers to Full Membership, Midland Division.*—16.

## Appointments

**S**TALYBRIDGE.—Mr. J. W. March, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, University College and City Library, Exeter, to be Borough Librarian, Stalybridge. Salary £250—£12 10s.—£300.

**WALLASEY.**—Mr. H. E. Whiteley, Senior Assistant, Grimsby Public Library, to be Senior Assistant, Wallasey. Four L.A. Certificates.

## Correspondence

THE EDITOR,  
THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT,  
PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
WOOD GREEN, N.22.

"LODGEWOOD,"  
GRAVESEND.

9th December, 1930.

DEAR SIR,—

The next edition of *The Libraries, Museums and Art Galleries Year-Book*, founded in 1897, by the late James Duff Brown, will be published in the autumn of 1931: after that it will be published ANNUALLY. This new edition will contain particulars of a greatly increased circle of libraries, more particularly the libraries of the larger schools, with an effective stock of not less than, say, a thousand volumes; and also libraries of a semi-private character, or private libraries available for the use of approved students. To make the particulars of these as complete as possible we shall be glad to receive from any source information that will enable us to get into touch with libraries of these or any other classes not already in the Year-Book. Perhaps your readers can help us.

Yours faithfully,

pp. THE EDITOR (ALEX. J. PHILIP).

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